

**Testimony Submitted by Falasha Campbell to the Housing Committee**  
**HB 6590: “An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes”**  
**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**February 7, 2023**

Good morning Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, ranking members, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Falasha Campbell and I am a family child care educator from Stamford. I started my family child care business in 2021. I’m a licensed New York City teacher. My program is preparing young children for Kindergarten. I am writing today to ask that you support HB 6590 “An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes”.

After obtaining my family child care license I realized I wanted to expand to serve more children. I started to find more information on starting a group family child care. From my research, I saw it was rigorous but I didn’t know just how difficult it was going to be. I had to go through my local zoning board first. I paid thousands of dollars in fees. I had to get approval from the fire marshall and the health department. A group family child license only allows you to care for up to 12 kids and the process was extremely rigorous. It took about 8 months.

Getting in contact with people at the city level was impossible. Just to get a simple paper signed could take weeks. I rented the space out, but I couldn’t take any children because I hadn’t been approved yet. While I was waiting to get my license I was getting calls from families. Many Stamford families live in a child care desert. There are only a few group daycares here in Stamford. No one wants to go through the process. If I would have known how expensive and time consuming it was I wouldn’t have. But, I made the commitment and I wanted to see it through to the end. You would have thought I was opening a school.

Blood, sweat, and tears went into getting my group family child care license. If I was looking to franchise out I wouldn’t do it in Stamford. I’ve heard that it’s different in Norwalk. There is no consistency. My experience was horrible. It’s much more difficult in Connecticut than New York. So many resources and dollars went down the drain. We spend all of our money just to open up. When I talk to anyone else they said they’ve been through this too. I believe I spent about \$40,000 expanding to group, including supplies for the children.

This service is to support the community so it should be looked at as such. It’s something that is needed here so we shouldn’t have to go through so much to serve. Therefore I am urging you to support HB 6590 to better protect these businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Falasha Campbell  
Family Child Care Educator  
Stamford, CT